

ELEVATION IN PLEIOSTACHYA (MARANTACEAE)

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Examination of specimens from throughout Central America (Hammel, unpubl. data) indicates that bract size and shape are useful for distinguishing among the three species of Pleiostachya but bract pubescence, which traditionally has been used to separate two of the species (Croat, 1978; Schumann, 1902; Standley, 1937; Woodson & Schery, 1945), is misleading. On the basis of this revised taxonomy and the type descriptions, P. morlae (Eggers) Schum. appears to be a later synonym of P. pruinosa (Regel) Schum. These observations lead to the conclusion that the species with the largest bracts is without a name.

A little known variety of P. morlae fits the concept of the large-bracted entity and is here elevated to species. This move is necessitated by the impending publication of the Marantaceae for the Flora of La Selva (Hammel, 1986) where both P. pruinosa and the newly recognized species occur.

Pleiostachya leiostachya (Donn. Sm.) Hammel, stat. nov.
P. morlae var. leiostachya (Donn. Sm.) Standl. Field Mus. Nat. Hist. Bot. 18:196. 1937. Ischnosiphon morlae var. leiostachya Donn. Sm., Bot. Gaz. 31:123. 1901. Type: Costa Rica, Cartago, Tonduz 12884 (lectotype US!).

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